

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

[COMMUNICATED.]

While the American party was in existence in this city, prosecution in every form seemed to be the order of the day towards the members of that party. Now we have to record an instance of an industrious mechanic, who was employed at the Capitol, being discharged for deserting, in the presence of a master bricklayer, that he believed the election of Lincoln was not so great a calamity to the country as the election of Breckinridge would have been. We think these Administration fanatics will soon discover that the prosecution of mechanics for political opinions will be rather an unprofitable business.

MORE AXON.

BUCHANAN, THE ALLEGED MURDERER.—Alfred Buchanan, the young man arrested at a village on the Erie railroad, on Monday, charged with the murder of Mrs. Shanks, was brought back to New York on Thursday, in custody. On his arrival, he was met by a large and excited crowd, who threatened to lynch him on the spot, but the officers succeeded in conveying him safely to prison. He is said to be the youngest son of a very respectable family of New York. Though he makes no direct confession, he admits that he knew the murdered woman, and that he was drunk the morning the crime was committed. There are several cuts and bruises on his hands and wrists, as if made by broken glass bottles. This is a significant circumstance, inasmuch as the floor of the room where Mrs. S. was killed was strewn with the remains of broken glass bottles. Glass was also found in the crushed portion of the skull. The clothes of the prisoner are also stained with blood.

Buchanan is but nineteen years of age. His eyes have a wild and glittering stare, and all his movements are restless. His father, who keeps a carpenter's shop, corner of Broadway and Twelfth streets, states that his son has been long subject to fits, and that he was once in the Lunatic Asylum. The prisoner says he went to Susquehanna to see a friend.

THE METHODISTS AND THE SLAVERY QUESTION.—A Convention of the Laymen of the Baltimore and East Baltimore Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which has been in session at Baltimore during the last week, adopted an address to the Baltimore Annual Conference. The document recites the history of the action taken by the late General Conference, charges that by its territory and population in the Baltimore Conference, represented by twenty-one circuits and stations, has been lost; that the building of churches had almost entirely ceased, and that no collection could be made for missionary purposes. In view of these facts, the report recommended that the Baltimore Annual Conference should, at its next meeting, declare that the General Conference had, by its official action, sullied the bonds which united the two bodies. The minority report agreed as to the cause of the present difficulties in the Conference, but was in favor of delaying action severing connection with the General Conference.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—At the regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, held yesterday morning, the following report of the revenues of the road for the month of November was presented:

Main Stem.	
Passengers	\$50,536.35
Mails	7,933.33
Express	10,069.29
Tonnage	298,332.00
\$366,871.57	
Washington Branch.	
Passengers	\$24,733.06
Mails	900.00
Express	1,300.00
Tonnage	6,322.71
33,255.77	

PROSPECTUS OF THE WEEKLY NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December, 1860.

The undersigned have commenced the publication, in this city, of a weekly newspaper, called the *National Republican*.

It is printed on a large sheet, 27 by 42 inches, and is furnished at the lowest prices stated below. It will contain all the original matter of the daily *National Republican*, with the exception of local news not interesting to country subscribers. It will give full reports of the proceedings of Congress, and of the other departments of the National Government.

It will contain all the news of the day, foreign and domestic, markets, &c., &c., as well as an original correspondence from all parts of the country. The miscellaneous department will receive special attention, and, in all respects, the effort will be made to establish the character of the *National Republican* as a

FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

In politics, the paper will be Republican, sustaining the incoming Administration of Mr. Lincoln; but disclaiming, however, any pretension to be the organ of the President elect.

There is no other Republican paper in the District of Columbia, or in the vicinity of it, and it is believed that recent events have opened to such a paper an important sphere of useful effort. The time has come, when the actual administration of the Government upon Republican principles will explode the misrepresentations which have made those principles so distasteful to the South.

But it is not only here, and in this vicinity, that the projectors of the *National Republican* hope to make it useful. To the whole country they offer a journal which will discuss national politics from a national standpoint, and which will never be swayed from patriotic duty by any overpowering pressure of local interest.

TERMS.

One copy, one year	\$2.00
Three copies, one year	5.00
Five copies, one year	7.00
Ten copies, one year	12.00
Twenty copies, one year	20.00
One copy, six months	1.00
Five copies, six months	3.50
Ten copies, six months	6.00
Twenty copies, six months	10.00

Payments always in advance.

When a Club of subscribers has been forwarded, additions may be made to it on the same terms. It is not necessary that the subscribers to a Club should receive their papers at the same post office.

Money may be forwarded by mail, at our risk. Large amounts can be remitted in drafts on Boston, New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore; smaller amounts in gold, or in notes of solvent banks. Address

L. CLEPHANE & CO.,
National Republican, Washington, D. C.

Those of our exchanges publishing the above conspicuously three times in the inside form of their paper, and forwarding a marked copy to this office, will receive our daily in exchange until the end of the ensuing session of Congress.

I. SNYDER.

Plumber and Gas Fitter,
Will introduce Gas and Water upon the most liberal terms, at the shortest notice, and will guarantee satisfaction.

He has on hand a lot of Cooking and other Stoves, which he will sell at less than cost. Call and see him. Remember the place, southeast corner of Twelfth and F streets. nov 26-1m

Prospectus of the National Republican.

Believing that the time has arrived when the great Republican party of the United States ought to be fairly represented in the daily press of the National Metropolis, we have embarked in the enterprise of supplying the citizens of the District of Columbia with a daily publication, under the title of the "NATIONAL REPUBLICAN."

In its political department, this journal will advocate and defend the principles of the Republican party, and endeavor to disabuse the public mind of groundless prejudices which have been engendered against it, by the false accusations of its enemies. Having the utmost confidence that the administration of Mr. Lincoln will be such as to merit our approbation, we expect to yield it a cordial, but not a servile support. In the great issue that is likely to be made with his administration, by the enemies of the Republican party, the people of Washington and the District of Columbia have more at stake than the people of any other portion of our common country. We believe that to support Mr. Lincoln's administration will be synonymous with maintaining the integrity of the Federal Union, against the machinations of those who would rend it asunder. No one can doubt upon which side of this issue the people of Washington will be found, when they come to realize that it is fairly forced upon them. We feel confident, therefore, that in yielding to the administration of Mr. Lincoln a cordial support, we shall have the sympathy of an immense majority of the people of this District and vicinity.

It is not our design, however, to make the *National Republican* a mere political paper. We intend, that as a medium of general and local news, it shall not be inferior to any other journal published in this city. We shall pay particular attention to questions of local policy, and advocate such reforms as we may deem essential to the prosperity of the city, and to the advancement of the moral and material welfare of its inhabitants.

We deem it unnecessary, however, to multiply promises, as the paper will immediately make its appearance, and will then speak for itself.

It will be published every afternoon, and delivered to city subscribers at six cents per week. Mail subscribers, \$3.50 a year, payable in advance.

The publication office is at the corner of Indiana avenue and Second street.

LEWIS CLEPHANE & CO.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.	
Green Corn,	Green Beans,
Green Tomatoes,	Fresh Peaches,
Brandy Peaches,	Lima Beans,
French Peas,	Asparagus,
Mushrooms,	Capers and Olives,
Olives Stuffed in Oil,	Spanish do.
New Raisins,	Almonds,
Dates, Prunes,	Figs, &c.

For sale low by
BROWNING & KEATING,
333 Penn. avenue, near Sixth street.

LEONARD SCOTT & CO.'S

REPRINT OF
THE BRITISH REVIEWS
AND

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.

LEONARD SCOTT & CO., New York, continue to publish the following leading British Periodicals, viz:

1. The London Quarterly (Conservative).
2. The Edinburgh Review (Whig).
3. The North British Review (Free Church).
4. The Westminster Review (Liberal).
5. Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine (Tory).

These Periodicals ally represent the three great political parties of Great Britain—Whig, Tory, and Radical—but politics forms only one feature of their character. As Organs of the most profound writers on Science, Literature, Morality, and Religion, they stand, as they ever have stood, unrivalled in the world of letters, being considered indispensable to the scholar and the professional man, while to the intelligent reader of every class they furnish a more correct and satisfactory record of the current literature of the day, throughout the world, than can be possibly obtained from any other source.

EARLY COPIES.

The receipt of ADVANCE SHEETS from the British publishers gives additional value to these Reprints, inasmuch as they can now be placed in the hands of subscribers about as soon as the original editions.

TERMS.

For any one of the four Reviews, per ann.	\$3
For any two of the four Reviews, " "	5
For any three of the four Reviews, " "	7
For all four of the Reviews, " "	8
For Blackwood's Magazine, " "	3
For Blackwood and one Review, " "	5
For Blackwood and two Reviews, " "	7
For Blackwood and three Reviews, " "	9
For Blackwood and the four Reviews, " "	10

Payments to be made in all cases in advance. Money current in the State where issued will be received at par.

CLUBBING.

A discount of twenty-five per cent. from the above price will be allowed to Clubs ordering four or more copies of any one or more of the above works. Thus: Four copies of Blackwood, or of one Review, will be sent to one address for \$9; four copies of the four Reviews and Blackwood for \$30; and so on.

POSTAGE.
In all the principal cities and towns, these works will be delivered, FREE OF POSTAGE. When sent by mail, the Postage to any part of the United States will be but twenty-four cents a year for "Blackwood," and but fourteen cents a year for each of the Reviews.

N. B. The price in Great Britain of the five Periodicals above named is \$31 per annum.

Remittances for any of the above publications should always be addressed, post paid, to the publishers,

LEONARD SCOTT & CO.,
nov 26 No. 54 Gold street, New York.

"HAVANA PALACE."

ALEXANDER W. MOODY,

NEW CIGAR STORE, No. 429 Seventh street, between G and H streets. Wholesale and retail dealer in Cigars, Tobacco, Snuff, and everything pertaining to a first-class Tobacco business.

Goods delivered to any part of the city free of charge. dec 10-3t

GREAT BARGAINS AT THE PEOPLE'S CLOTHING STORE,

No. 406 Seventh street, near E.

I AM now offering my large stock of Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Hats, and Caps, at remarkably low prices, in order to decrease my large stock.

N. B. All persons in want of Clothing and Furnishing Goods will find it greatly to their advantage to give me a call, as I am determined to sell lower than any other house in town. Don't forget the name and number.

J. H. SMITH, Clothier,
dec 7-1m 460 Seventh st., op. Post Office.

Organization of the Departments.

STATE DEPARTMENT.

The whole machinery employed to conduct the business arising out of our foreign relations with all the Powers of the world is far more simple than is generally conceived. The number employed in the Department of State of the United States is only twenty-eight, as follows: One Secretary of State, (Hon. Lewis Cass), one Assistant Secretary of State, (Hon. John Appleton), one Chief Clerk, one Superintendent of Statistics, twenty-two Clerks, one Translator, and one Librarian.

Diplomatic Branch.—This branch of the State Department has charge of all correspondence between the Department and other diplomatic agents of the United States abroad, and those of foreign Powers accredited to this Government. In it all diplomatic instructions sent from the Department, and communications to commissioners under treaties of boundaries, &c., are prepared, copied, and recorded; and all of like character received are registered and filed, their contents being first entered in an analytic table or index.

Consular Branch.—This branch has charge of the correspondence, &c., between the Department and the consuls and commercial agents of the United States. In it instructions to consuls, and answers to their dispatches and to letters from other persons asking for consular agency, or relating to consular affairs, are prepared and recorded.

The Disbursing Agent.—He has charge of all correspondence and other matters connected with accounts relating to any fund with the disbursement of which the Department is charged.

The Translator.—His duties are to furnish such translations as the Department may require. He also records the commissions of consuls and vice consuls, when not in English, upon which exequaturs are issued.

Clerk of Appointments and Commissions.—He makes out and records commissions, letters of appointment, and nominations to the Senate; makes out and records exequaturs, and records, when in English, the commissions on which they are issued. Has charge of the library.

Clerk of the Rolls and Archives.—He takes charge of the rolls, or enrolled acts and resolutions of Congress, as they are received at the Department from the President; prepares the authenticated copies thereof which are called for; prepares for, and superintends their publication, and that of treaties in the newspapers and in book form; attends to their distribution throughout the United States, and that of all documents and publications in regard to which this duty is assigned to the Department; writing and answering all letters connected therewith. Has charge of all Indian treaties, and business relating thereto.

Clerk of Territorial Business.—The Seal of the Department, &c.—He has charge of the seals of the United States and of the Department, and prepares and attaches certificates to papers presented for authentication; has charge of the Territorial business; immigration and registered seamen; records all letters from the Department, other than the diplomatic and consular.

Clerk of Pardons and Passports.—He prepares and records pardons and remissions; and registers and files the petitions and papers on which they are founded. Makes out and records passports; keeps a daily register of all letters, other than diplomatic and consular, received, and of the disposition made of them; prepares letters relating to this business.

Superintendent of Statistics.—He superintends the preparation of the "Annual Report of the Secretary of State and Foreign Commerce," as required by the acts of 1843 and 1856.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Hon. Jeremiah S. Black, Attorney General of the United States; A. B. McCalmont, Esq., Assistant. The ordinary business of this office may be classified under the following heads:

1. Official opinions on the constitutionality of the Government, as called for by the President, by any head of Department, or by the Solicitor of the Treasury.
2. Examination of the titles of all land purchased, as the sites of arsenals, custom-houses, light-houses, and all other public works of the United States.
3. Applications for pardons in all cases of conviction in the courts of the United States.
4. Applications for appointment in all the judicial and legal business of the Government.
5. The conduct and argument of all suits in the Supreme Court of the United States in which the Government is concerned.
6. The supervision of all other suits arising in any of the Departments, when referred by the head thereof to the Attorney General.

To these ordinary heads of the business of the office is added at the present time the direction of all appeals on land claims in California.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Hon. Jacob Thompson, of the State of Mississippi. Its clerical force consists of one Chief Clerk, (Moses Kelly, Esq.), two Disbursing Clerks, and ten other regular Clerks; and to its supervision and management are committed the following branches of the public service:

1. The Public Lands.—The chief of this bureau is the Commissioner of the General Land Office. The Land Bureau is charged with the survey, management, and sale of the public domain, and the issuing of titles therefor, whether derived from confirmations of grants made by former Governments, by sales, donations, or grants for schools, military bounties, or public improvements, and likewise the revision of Virginia military bounty-land claims, and the issuing of scrip in lieu thereof. The Land Office, also, audits its own accounts. The present Commissioner is Joseph B. Wilson. Its principal officers are a Recorder, Chief Clerk, who also acts as Commissioner ad interim, Principal Clerk of Surveys, besides a Draughtsman, Assistant Draughtsman, and some 150 Clerks of various grades.

2d. **Pensions.**—The present head of this bureau is George C. Whiting, of Virginia. The Commissioner is charged with the examination and adjudication of all claims arising under the various and numerous laws passed by Congress granting bounty land or pensions for the military or naval services in the revolutionary and subsequent wars in which the United States have been engaged. He has one Chief Clerk, (John Robb, Esq.), and a permanent corps, consisting of some seventy other Clerks.

3d. **Indians.**—Commissioner of Indian Affairs, A. B. Greenwood, of Arkansas. He is provided with a Chief Clerk, and about fifteen other subordinate Clerks.

4th. **Patent Office.**—Hon. Philip F. Thomas, of Maryland, Commissioner of Patents. To this bureau is committed the execution and performance of all "acts and things touching and respecting the granting and issuing of patents for new and useful discoveries, inventions, and improvements;" the collection of statistics relating to agriculture; the collection and distribution of seeds, plants, and cuttings. It has a Chief Clerk—who is by law the acting Commissioner of Patents in the absence of the Commissioner—twelve principal and twelve assistant Examiners of Patents, some dozen subordinate permanent Clerks, besides a considerable number of temporary employees. Samuel T. Shugart, Esq., Chief Clerk.

An act passed at the last session of Congress provided that all books, maps, charts, and other publications heretofore deposited in the Department of State, according to the laws regulating copyrights, should be removed to the Department of the Interior, which is charged with all the duties connected with matters pertaining to copyright; which duties have been assigned by the Secretary of the Interior to the Patent Of-

fice, as belonging most appropriately to this branch of the service.

Beside these four principal branches of this new Executive Department, the organic act of 1849 transferred to it from the Treasury Department the supervision of the accounts of the United States Marshals and Attorneys, and the Clerks of the United States Courts, the management of the lead and other mines of the United States, and the affairs of the penitentiary of the United States in the District of Columbia; and from the State Department the duty of taking and returning the censuses of the United States, and of supervising and directing the acts of the Commissioner of Public Buildings. The Hospital for the insane of the army and navy and of the District of Columbia is also under the management of this Department; in addition to which, by laws recently passed, the Secretary of the Interior is charged with the construction of the three wagon roads leading to the Pacific coast.

Under act of February 5, 1859, "providing for keeping and distributing all public documents, all the books, documents, &c., printed or purchased by the Government," the Annual of Congress, American State Papers, American Archives, Jefferson's and Adams's Works, are transferred to this Department from the State Department, Library of Congress, and elsewhere; also, the Journals and Documents of the Thirty-fifth Congress. These valuable works are distributed to those who are by law entitled to receive them, and to such "colleges, public libraries, academies, literary and scientific institutions, boards of trade, or public associations," as shall be designated by the members of Congress.

The Department requires an additional building for its accommodation, and the erection of one has been repeatedly recommended during the last few years for that purpose. At present, the Pension Office is provided with rooms in what is known as "Winder's Building," while the other branches of the Department, including the Secretary's office, are all crowded into the Patent Office building, the whole of which will be required at an early day for the use of the Patent Office, for which it was originally intended.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The Treasury Department consists of the offices of the Secretary of the Treasury, two Comptrollers, Commissioner of the Customs, six Auditors, Treasurer, Register, Solicitor, Light-house Board, and Coast Survey.

The following is a brief indication of the duties of these several offices, and of the force employed therein, respectively:

Secretary's Office.—Hon. Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury; Hon. Philip Clayton, Assistant Secretary; one Engineer in Charge; one Architect, and three Draughtsmen temporarily employed, and twenty-three Clerks. The Secretary of the Treasury is charged with the general supervision of the fiscal transactions of the Government, and of the execution of the laws concerning the commerce and navigation of the United States. He superintends the survey of the coast, the light-house establishment, the marine hospital of the United States, and the construction of certain public buildings for custom-houses and other purposes.

First Comptroller's Office.—Hon. William Mall, Comptroller, and fifteen Clerks. He prescribes the mode of keeping and rendering accounts for the civil and diplomatic service, as well as the public lands, and revises and certifies the balances arising thereon.

Second Comptroller's Office.—J. M. Cutts, Esq., Comptroller, and seventeen Clerks. He prescribes the mode of keeping and rendering the accounts of the Army, Navy, and Indian departments of the public service, and revises and certifies the balances arising thereon.

Office of Commissioner of Customs.—Samuel Ingham, Esq., Commissioner, and eleven Clerks. He prescribes the mode of keeping and rendering the accounts of the customs, revenue, and disbursements, and for the building and repairing custom-houses, &c., and revises and certifies the balances arising thereon.

First Auditor's Office.—Thomas L. Smith, Esq., First Auditor, and nineteen Clerks. He receives and adjusts the accounts of the customs revenue and disbursements, appropriations and expenditures on account of the civil list, and under private acts of Congress, and reports the balances to the Commissioner of the Customs and the First Comptroller, respectively, for their decision thereon.

Second Auditor's Office.—Thomas J. D. Fuller, Second Auditor, and twenty-one Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts relating to the pay, clothing, and recruiting of the army, as well as armories, arsenals, and ordnance, and all accounts relating to the Indian department, and reports the balances to the Second Comptroller, for his decision thereon.

Third Auditor's Office.—Robert J. Atkinson, Esq., Third Auditor, and seventy-eight Clerks. He receives and audits all accounts for subsistence of the army, fortifications, Military Academy, military roads, and the Quartermaster's department, as well as for pensions, claims arising from military services previous to 1816, and for sea and other property lost in the military service, under various acts of Congress, and reports the balances to the Second Comptroller, for his decision thereon.

Fourth Auditor's Office.—A. J. O'Bannon, Esq., Fourth Auditor, and sixteen Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts for the service of the Navy Department, and reports the balances to the Second Comptroller, for his decision thereon.

Fifth Auditor's Office.—Bartholomew Fuller, Esq., Fifth Auditor, and six Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts for diplomatic and similar services performed under the direction of the State Department, and reports the balances to the First Comptroller, for his decision thereon.

Sixth Auditor's Office.—Dr. Thomas M. Tate, Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, and one hundred and fourteen Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts arising from the service of the Post Office Department. His decisions are final, unless an appeal be taken in twelve months to the First Comptroller. He superintends the collection of all debts due the Post Office Department, and all penalties and forfeitures imposed on postmasters and mail contractors for failing to do their duty; he directs suits and legal proceedings, civil and criminal, and takes all such measures as may be authorized by law to enforce the prompt payment of moneys due to the Department; instructing United States attorneys, marshals, and clerks, on all matters relating thereto; and receives returns from each term of the United States courts, of the condition and progress of such suits and legal proceedings, and assigns to the United States in payment of debts due the Post Office Department, and has power to sell and dispose of the same for the benefit of the United States.

Treasurer's Office.—Samuel Casey, Esq., Treasurer, and thirteen Clerks. He receives and keeps the moneys of the United States in his own office, and that of the depositories created by the act of the 6th of August, 1846, and pays out the same upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of the Treasury, countersigned by the First Comptroller, and upon warrants drawn by the Postmaster General, and countersigned by the Sixth Auditor, and recorded by the Register. He also holds public moneys advanced by warrant to disbursing officers, and pays out the same upon their checks.

Register's Office.—Finley Bigger, Esq., Register, and twenty-nine Clerks. He keeps the accounts of public receipts and expenditures; receives the returns and makes out the official statement of commerce and navigation of the United States; and receives from the First Comptroller and Commissioner of Customs all accounts and

vouchers decided by them, and is charged by law with their safe keeping.

Solicitor's Office.—Hon. Junius Hillier, Solicitor, and six Clerks. He superintends all civil suits commenced by the United States, (except those arising in the Post Office Department), and instructs the United States attorneys, marshals, and clerks, in all matters relating to them and their results. He receives returns from each term of the United States courts, showing the progress and condition of such suits; has charge of all lands and other property assigned to the United States in payment of debts, (except those assigned in payment of debts due the Post Office Department), and has power to sell and dispose of the same for the benefit of the United States.

Light-House Board.—Hon. Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, ex-officio President; Com. W. B. Shubrick, United States Navy, Chairman; Commander E. G. Tilton, United States Navy; Major A. H. H. Humphreys, Corps of Engineers, United States Army; Capt. A. A. Humphreys, Corps Topographical Engineers, United States Army; Prof. Joseph Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Prof. A. D. Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Survey; Commander Raphael Semmes, United States Navy, and Captain W. F. Smith, Corps Topographical Engineers, United States Army, members, the last two being also Secretaries; and five Clerks. This board directs the building and repairing of light-houses, light-vessels, beacons, and buoys, contracts for supplies, and governs the personnel of the establishment.

United States Coast Survey.—Professor A. D. Bache, LL. D., Superintendent, and Superintendent of Weights and Measures.

Capt. William R. Palmer, Corps Topographical Engineers, United States Army, is in charge of the Coast Survey Office; Lieut. A. P. Hill, United States Army, Assistant.

Assistant W. P. Trowbridge, computer of longitudes.

Assistant Chas. A. Schott, in charge of computing division.

Assistant L. F. Pourtales, in charge of tidal division.

Lieut. Thomas Wilson, United States Army, in charge of drawing division.

Mr. Edward Wharton, acting in charge of engraving division.

Lieut. John R. Smead, United States Army, in charge of miscellaneous divisions.

Samuel Hein, Disbursing Agent.

George Mathiot, Electrotypist.

Joseph Saxton, Assistant to Superintendent of Weights and Measures.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Hon. Joseph Holt, Postmaster General. The direction and management of the Post Office Department are assigned by the Constitution and laws to the Postmaster General. That its business may be the more conveniently arranged and prepared for his final action, it is distributed among several bureaus, as follows: The Appointment Office, in charge of the First Assistant Postmaster General; the Contract Office, in charge of the Second Assistant Postmaster General; the Finance Office, in charge of the Third Assistant Postmaster General; and the Inspection Office, in charge of the Chief Clerk.

Appointment Office.—Horatio King, Esq., First Assistant Postmaster General, and nineteen Clerks. To this office are assigned all questions which relate to the establishment and discontinuance of post offices, changes of sites and names, appointment and removal of postmasters and route and local agents, as also the giving of instructions to postmasters, Postmasters are furnished with marking and rating stamps and letter balances by this bureau, which is charged also with providing blanks and stationery for the use of the Department, and with the superintendence of the several agencies established for supplying postmasters with blanks. To this bureau is likewise assigned the supervision of the ocean mail steamship lines, and of the foreign and international postal arrangements.

Contract Office.—William H. Dundas, Esq., Second Assistant Postmaster General, and twenty-six Clerks. To this office is assigned the business of arranging the mail service of the United States, and placing the same under contract, embracing all correspondence and proceedings respecting the frequency of trips, mode of conveyance, and times of departures and arrivals on all the routes; the course of the mail between the different sections of the country, the points of mail distribution, and the regulations for the government of the domestic mail service of the United States. It prepares the advertisements for mail proposals, receives the bids, and takes charge of the annual and occasional mail lettings, and the adjustment and execution of the contracts. All applications for the establishment or alteration of mail arrangements, and the appointment of Mail Messengers, should be sent to this office. All claims should be submitted to it for transportation service not under contract, as the recognition of said service is first to be obtained through the Contract Office, as a necessary authority for the proper credits at the Auditor's Office. From this office all postmasters at the ends of routes receive the statement of mail arrangements prescribed for the respective routes. It reports weekly to the Auditor all contracts executed, and all orders affecting accounts for mail transportation; prepares the statistical exhibits of the mail service, and the reports of the mail lettings, giving a statement of each bid; also, of the contracts made, the new service originated, the cuttings made, and the additional allowances granted within the year.

Finance Office.—A. N. Zevilly, Esq., Third Assistant Postmaster General, and twenty-one Clerks. To this office are assigned the supervision and management of the financial business of the Department, not devolved by law upon the Auditor, embracing accounts with the draft offices and other depositories of the Department, the issuing of warrants and drafts in payment of balances reported by the Auditor to be due to mail contractors and other persons, the supervision of the accounts of offices under orders to deposit their quarterly balances at designated points, and the superintendence of the rendition by postmasters of their quarterly returns of postage. It has charge of the Dead-Letter Office, of the issuing of postage stamps and stamped envelopes for the pre-payment of postage, and of the accounts connected therewith.

To the Third Assistant Postmaster General all postmasters should direct their quarterly returns of postage; those at draft offices, their letters reporting quarterly the net proceeds of their offices; and those at depositing offices, their certificates of deposit; to him should also be directed the weekly and monthly returns of the depositories of the Department, as well as all applications and receipts for postage stamps and stamped envelopes, and for dead letters.

Inspection Office.—Benj. N. Clements, Esq., Chief Clerk, and seventeen Clerks. To this office is assigned the duty of receiving and examining the registers of the arrivals and departures of the mails, certificates of the service of route agents, and reports of mail failures; of noting the delinquencies of contractors, and preparing cases thereon for the action of the Postmaster General; furnishing blanks for mail registers, and reports of mail failures; providing and sending out mail bags and mail locks and keys, and doing all other things which may be necessary to secure a faithful and exact performance of all mail contracts.

All cases of mail depredation, or of violation of law by private express, or by the forging or illegal